Justification (pro-justification) — **By faith alone in Christ alone**

Romans 4:1-25 (NKJV)
1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?
2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."
4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.
5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
6 even as David also speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:
7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;
8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

Romans 5:15 (NKJV)
15 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sanctification (pro-sanctification)

Romans 6:22 (NKJV)
22 But now being free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, eternal life.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 2:1 (NKJV)
1 My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 John 3:6 (NKJV)
6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor knows Him.

1 John 3:9 (NKJV)
9 Whoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remains in him; and he cannot sin because he is born of God.

1 John 5:18 (NKJV)
18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who begotten of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

Philadelphia

Verse 11: the Maker believer's Purpose clause

Revelation 3:1-6 (NKJV)
1 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says the Holy One, who is true, 'He who has the key of David, 'He who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:'
2 'I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it, for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.
9 'Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not, but are liars—indeed I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.
10 'Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.
11 'Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.
12 'He who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out. And I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Hold fast what you have

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have that no one may take your crown.

emphasis here = **continued possession**

continuation (continuing, continue, stay, abide) **ἔχω** (echō) **1.1b1 1.1b1 6.1a1b** (NT) **ἔχω** (echō) **6.1a1b** (NT)

to hold, retain

(1) *what*(2) *who*, present, active, imperative, second person, singular

The present (imperative) emphasizes something already in progress, continuing, ongoing.

It describes a personal operating principle, a become part of one's character, something that one does habitually, a lifestyle, something should become an operational or reflex response.

not in the better manuscripts

was only in the late MS (the Textus Receptus) and is known as the "Comma Pericopae or the Johannine Comma" and was the foundation for the KJV translation.

Revelation 2:23-25 (NASB95)
23 And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who keeps the mind and the heart; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.
24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, as many as do not have this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.
25 Nevertheless you have **Hold** fast what you have until I come.

The word **Hold** is used here in terms of holding to biblical truths, doctrine that's already understood and established in the word.

But also of having sound practice.

The idea of doctrine in Scripture is not just the idea of **abstract** theological correctness of thinking.

Theological concept of teaching doesn't see a differentiation between teaching and practice, they are all one and the same thing.

So there is a connection here between holding to orthodoxy and practice.

What is it that they have to be concerned about?

- They have correct doctrine, both
- They have not been compromised the practice of that truth do to pressure coming from the culture around them.
- they have been encouraged to maintain a steady practice of that truth and once again with false prophets.

Revelation 3:10-11 (NASB95)
10 Because you have kept the word of My patience, you will **Hold** fast My name, and you did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
11 But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who **Hold** the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and commit immorality.

Notice the contrast between **Holding** but on the one hand, "my name," or personal to

Holding "my faith."

- faith in the sense of the body of truth, doctrine, teaching and application that is part of Christianity.

Holding is used in numerous contexts to indicate:

- holding to a teaching or doctrine or
- holding back or possessing or
- spiritual growth
- and not being deceived.

abstract (noun) (adjective) existing in thought or as an idea but not being a physical or concrete reference object

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have that no one may take your crown.

It's not simply **abstract** doctrine.

It's the application of that doctrine in life

It is the idea that whatever you have done as you have grown and as you have matured, don't let anything take away from that.

Hold fast what you have

The purpose clause:

"that no one may take your crown."

Each of these letters to the seven churches contain special privileges and promises for the Overcomers or the Successful believers.

There are three mentioned in Scripture.

These are special awards given to believers who persevere or endure.

1. The crown of righteousness:

2 Timothy 4:8 (NASB95)
8 Finally there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE FAITH

I have kept that body of specific truths, given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have remained faithful to those special truths, and I have kept a good conscience.

2. The crown of life:

James 1:12 (NASB95)
12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Revelation 2:10 (NASB95)
10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life**.

Special capacity above and beyond others in the future kingdom. It goes to those who preserve in spiritual maturity, to persevere in trial.

3. The crown of glory:

1 Peter 5:4 (NASB95)
4 and when the chief shepherd shall appear, you will receive the **crown of glory** that fadeth not away.

Jesus is the chief shepherd, and when he shows up, we will receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

crown of glory

The crown of glory is to pastors and missionaries who are successful in first understanding the Word of God, and then applying it to these daily life, and then accurately communicating the Word of God.

Where and more importantly are not this a business or a ministry?

Where the pastor is viewed more like a C.E.O., the president.

Pastor/teachers who view a people service, taking care of all the things that go on in the life of the church, and not teaching the word of God.

Pastors who are too busy with the business of administering all of the different things that go on in the church, and don't have time to sit down as people and teach.

The reason God uses a pastor in a local congregation is to feed the flock.

They're what Jesus told his apostle Peter to do, to feed the sheep of God, through teaching the word of God.

Not speaking, or simply telling the flock the spiritual principles

Not accurately communicating the Word of God

John 21:15-17 (NASB95)
15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He ****